

MONTANA CROP PROGRESS



United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
MONTANA FIELD OFFICE
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 Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CROP PROGRESS AND CONDITION WEEK ENDING APRIL 12, 2015

AGRICULTURAL SUMMARY: For a second week, measurable precipitation was widely scattered across Montana, preserving mostly adequate to surplus topsoil and subsoil moisture levels as small grain seeding gained speed under 5.0 days suitable for fieldwork. Warm, mostly mild weather conditions continued to benefit the spring calving season, and have allowed ranchers to limit the amount of feedstuffs being used. By April 12, twenty percent of the barley crop was seeded, compared with 3 percent last year and 15 percent for the 5-year average. Spring wheat was being seeded ahead of both last year's and the average pace. Sixty-two percent of the winter wheat crop was reported in good to excellent condition, compared with 65 percent last year.

CROP AND LIVESTOCK PROGRESS

Commodity	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Barley				
Planted	20	4	3	15
Camelina				
Planted	1	--	--	11
Oats				
Planted	5	--	--	6
Spring wheat				
Planted	10	1	3	7
Winter wheat				
Breaking dormancy	88	60	NA	NA
Cattle receiving supplemental feed	85	90	93	NA
Sheep receiving supplemental feed	80	88	94	NA
Cows calved	61	47	54	65
Ewes lambled	49	38	38	50
Livestock grazing				
Closed	8	8	35	22
Difficult	16	20	21	19
Open	76	72	44	59

(NA) – not available

(--) – zero

PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION

Pasture and Range	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Previous year (percent)	5-year average (percent)
Very poor	4	5	3	7
Poor	16	20	24	22
Fair	46	44	43	42
Good	31	30	28	27
Excellent	3	1	2	2

DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELDWORK AND SOIL MOISTURE CONDITION

Commodity	Current week	Previous week	Previous year	5-year average
Days suitable for fieldwork	5.0	4.6	2.9	3.4
Topsoil moisture	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	7	8	2	8
Short	22	21	9	17
Adequate.....	61	58	72	61
Surplus.....	10	13	17	14
Subsoil moisture				
Very short	6	6	3	9
Short	21	21	10	20
Adequate.....	53	53	76	63
Surplus.....	20	20	11	8

CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION

Commodity	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Winter wheat	2	6	30	33	29

Montana's weather data can be accessed at the following:

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Montana/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/2015/MT_Weather_04122015.pdf